

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
two laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other; and
a tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said two laser sources;
wherein the absolute difference in wavenumber between said pump light beams emitted from the two laser sources is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.
2. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources.
3. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
three or more laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another; and
a tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said three or more laser sources;
wherein said three or more laser sources are divided into two groups not overlapping each other in wavelength and the absolute difference in wavenumber between the corresponding weight center wavelengths of said two groups is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.
4. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said three or more laser sources.
5. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.
6. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a gain equalizer installed in the downstream stage of said tellurite fiber in incident direction of signal light.
7. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
two laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other; and
a first tellurite fiber and a second tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said two laser sources;
wherein the absolute difference in wavenumber between said pump light beams emitted from the two laser sources is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.
8. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber are connected in series.

9. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a gain equalizer installed between said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber.

10. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources; and
a splitter that splits an output light from said coupler into input light branches to be provided for said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber.

11. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
three or more laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another; and
two tellurite fibers pumped with the pump light emitted from said three or more laser sources;

wherein said three or more laser sources are divided into two groups not overlapping each other in wavelength and the absolute difference in wavenumber between the corresponding weight center wavelengths of said two groups is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

12. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of said first tellurite fiber and said second tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

13. (Currently Amended) An optical Raman fiber amplifier comprising:
first and second laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;
a tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said first laser source; and
a silica fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said second laser source.

14. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said second laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$.

15. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

16. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 15, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in incident direction of signal light.

17. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:
a first coupler for injecting the pump light emitted from said first laser source into said tellurite fiber; and
a second coupler for injecting the pump light emitted from said second laser source into said silica fiber.

18. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

19. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

20. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that from said second laser source.

21. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 20, wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

22. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 21, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light.

23. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 20, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

24. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 20, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

25. (Previously Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a reflector installed between said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber to reflect the pump light emitted from said second laser source.

26. (Previously Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 20; wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series, said silica fiber is installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light, and further comprising a reflector installed between said tellurite fiber and silica fiber to reflect the pump light emitted from said first laser source.

27. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 25, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

28. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 25, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

29. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 26, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

30. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 26, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

31. (Original) An optical amplifier comprising:
a plurality of tellurite fibers;
a plurality of silica fibers; and
two laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;
wherein said tellurite fibers and said silica fibers are connected in series adjacent to each other.

32. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein the difference in wavenumber between the two pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$.

33. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources and signal light.

34. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed in a most upstream stage of the incident direction of signal light.

35. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein the number of said tellurite fibers is two and that of said silica fibers is two.

36. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein said plurality of tellurite fibers are dispersion compensating fibers.

37. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein said plurality of silica fibers are dispersion compensating fibers.

38. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first, second and third laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another;
a tellurite fiber pumped with said first laser source; and
a silica fiber pumped with said second and third laser sources.

39. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38;
wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said second laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said third laser source is $42\text{-}294\text{cm}^{-1}$.

40. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38, wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

41. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 40, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in incident direction of signal light.

42. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a coupler that combines pump light emitted from said second laser source and pump light from said third laser source.

43. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

44. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

45. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first, second and third laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another;
a tellurite fiber pumped with said first and second laser sources; and
a silica fiber pumped with said third laser source.

46. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45;
wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

47. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

48. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 47, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light.

49. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, further comprising a coupler that combines pump light emitted from said first laser source and pump light emitted from said second laser source.

50. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

51. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

52. (Previously Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, wherein, λ_1 and λ_2 being wavelengths ($\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$) at the gain peaks provided by pumping with only the pump light emitted from said first laser source, the ratio between an on-off Raman gain (in dB values) at λ_1 of said tellurite fiber and that at λ_2 lies between 100:80 and 100:100 when the tellurite fiber is pumped with the pump light beams emitted from said first and second laser sources.

53. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first, second, third and fourth laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another;
a tellurite fiber pumped with said first and second laser sources; and
a silica fiber pumped with said third and fourth laser sources.

54. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53;
wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said fourth laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

55. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

56. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 55, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light.

57. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that from said second laser source.

58. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that from said fourth laser source.

59. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

60. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

61. (Previously Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, wherein, λ_1 and λ_2 being wavelengths ($\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$) at the gain peaks provided by pumping with only the pump light emitted

from said first laser source, the ratio between an on-off Raman gain (in dB values) at λ_1 of said tellurite fiber and that at λ_2 lies between 100:80 and 100:100 when the tellurite fiber is pumped with the pump light beams emitted from said first and second laser sources.

62. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first, second, third and fourth laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another;
fifth and sixth laser sources;
a first tellurite fiber pumped with said first and second laser sources;
a second tellurite fiber pumped with said fifth and sixth laser sources; and
a silica fiber pumped with said third and fourth laser sources.

63. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62;
wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said fourth laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

64. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pump light beams emitted from said fifth and first laser sources have the same wavelength and the pump light beams emitted from said sixth and second laser sources have the same wavelength.

65. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, wherein said first tellurite fiber, said silica fiber and said second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order.

66. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, further comprising a coupler that combines pump light emitted from said first laser source and pump light emitted from said second laser source.

67. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, further comprising a coupler that combines pump light emitted from said third laser source and pump light emitted from said fourth laser source.

68. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, further comprising a coupler that combines pump light emitted from said fifth laser source and pump light emitted from said sixth laser source.

69. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, wherein at least one of said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

70. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

71. (Currently Amended) An optical Raman fiber amplifier comprising:
first and second laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;
a tellurite fiber; and
an Erbium-doped fiber.

72. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 71, wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1410-1440nm and the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said second laser source is 1450-1500nm.

73. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 71, wherein said tellurite fiber and said Erbium-doped fiber are connected in series.

74. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 73, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in incident direction of signal light.

75. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 71, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

76. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first and second laser sources;
a tellurite fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said first laser source;
a wavelength-selective splitter to split a signal light amplified in said tellurite fiber into a signal light output of a first wavelength region and a signal light output of a second wavelength region;
a Thulium-doped fiber that is pumped with a pump light emitted from said second laser source to amplify the signal light output of the first wavelength region; and
a coupler to combine the signal light output of the first wavelength region amplified in said Thulium-doped fiber and the signal light output of the second wavelength region.

77. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 76, wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1310-1480nm.

78. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 76, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

79. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 76, further comprising a third laser source and a silica fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said third laser source, wherein the signal light output of said second wavelength region is amplified in said silica fiber.

80. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 79, wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said third laser source is 1380-1550nm.

81. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 79, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

82. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 79, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

83. (Original) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first laser source, second laser source and third laser source;
a tellurite fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said first laser source;
a Thulium-doped fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said second laser source;
a silica fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said third laser source;
wherein said tellurite fiber, Thulium-doped fiber and silica fiber are connected in series in this order.

84. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83, wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1310-1480nm and the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said third laser source is 1380-1550nm.

85. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83, wherein said Thulium-doped fiber is a Thulium-doped fluoride fiber.

86. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

87. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

88. (Currently Amended) An optical Raman fiber amplifier comprising:
a first laser source; and
an Erbium-doped tellurite fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said first laser source;
wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1410-1440nm.

89. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 88, wherein the concentration of Erbium doped in said Erbium-doped tellurite fiber is 1000ppm by weight or less.

90. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 88, further comprising a second laser source for pumping said Erbium-doped tellurite fiber, wherein the wavelength of a pump light emitted from said second laser source is 1450-1500nm.

91. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 90, wherein the concentration of Erbium doped in said Erbium-doped tellurite fiber is 1000ppm by weight, or less.

92. (Original) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 90, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that from said second laser source.

93. (Currently Amended) An optical communication system including at least one transmission line segment with Raman amplification comprising:

(a) a repeater incorporating a first laser source and a second laser source and a tellurite fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said first laser source; and

(b) a unit transmission line having a silica fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said second laser source.

94. (Original) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 93, wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said second laser source and the pump light emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$.

95. (Original) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 93, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

96. (Original) An optical communication system including at least one transmission line segment comprising:

(a) a repeater incorporating a first, a second and a third laser sources, and a fifth and a sixth laser sources, a first tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said first and second laser sources, a first silica fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said third laser source, and a second tellurite fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said fifth and sixth laser sources; and

(b) a unit transmission line having a fourth laser source and a second silica fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said fourth laser source;

wherein said first, second, third and fourth laser sources emit pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another.

97. (Previously Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 96, wherein

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said fourth laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

98. (Previously Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 96, wherein

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said fourth laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said third laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

99. (Previously Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 97, wherein the pump light beams emitted from said first and fifth laser sources have the same wavelength and the pump light beams emitted from said second and sixth laser sources have the same wavelength.

100. (Previously Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 98, wherein the pump light beams emitted from said first and fifth laser sources have the same wavelength and the pump light beams emitted from said second and sixth laser sources have the same wavelength.

101. (Previously Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 96, further comprising a seventh laser source for pumping said second silica fiber, wherein pump light beams emitted from said seventh and third laser sources have the same wavelength.

102. (Previously Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 96, wherein said first tellurite fiber, first silica fiber and second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order in said repeater.

103. (Original) An optical communication system including at least one transmission line segment comprising:

(a) a repeater incorporating first, second and third laser sources, a first tellurite fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said first and second laser sources, and a first silica fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said third laser source; and

(b) a unit transmission line having a fourth laser source and a second silica fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said fourth laser source;

wherein said first, second, third and fourth laser sources emit pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another.

104. (Original) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 103, wherein the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said fourth laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

105. (Original) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 103, wherein the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said fourth laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and

the difference in wave number between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said third laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

106. (Original) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 103, further comprising a fifth laser source for pumping said second silica fiber, wherein the pump light beams emitted from said fifth and third laser sources have the same wavelength.

107. (Original) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 103, wherein said repeater further comprises a second tellurite fiber, and said first tellurite fiber, first silica fiber and second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order in said repeater.